

Claims 1-17 are presently pending in this application, Claims 1, 16 and 17 having been amended by the present amendment.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 1-5, 15 and 16-17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Tomita et al. (U.S. Patent 4,187,429); and Claims 6-14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Tomita et al.

Claims 1, 16 and 17 have been amended to clearly define their subject matter and are not believed to be narrower than previous Claims 1, 16 and 17 in their respective scopes.

Briefly recapitulating, according to Claim 1 of the present invention, a gantry of an X-ray computer tomography apparatus includes an X-ray tube, an X-ray detector, a rotation ring mounting said X-ray tube and said X-ray detector, a ring frame rotatably supporting said rotation ring, a plurality of main posts tiltably supporting said ring frame, and a plurality of props jointing to the main posts obliquely to reinforce the main posts. By providing such props, a gantry of an X-ray computer tomography apparatus according to the present invention is effectively reinforced against vibration caused by high speed rotation of the rotation ring without increasing its size and weight.¹

The outstanding Office Action asserts that Tomita et al. disclose a scanning apparatus as recited in Claim 1. Nevertheless, Tomita et al. do not teach a plurality of props jointing to the main posts obliquely to reinforce the main posts. On the other hand, Tomita et al. disclose a tilted stick which possibly reinforces the scan mechanism section 10 but not the base pedestal 11.² Because Tomita et al. do not disclose members which reinforce the base pedestal 11, the Tomita et al. apparatus is enlarged in the shape of a home plate as shown in

¹ Specification, page 2, lines 7-14 and page 6, line 22 to page 8, line 12.

² See Tomita et al., Figure 3.

Figure 2 of Tomita et al. As such, the structure recited in Claim 1 is clearly distinguishable from Tomita et al.

Because Tomita et al. do not disclose the props as recited in Claim 1, Tomita et al. would not anticipate or render the structure recited in Claim 1 obvious.

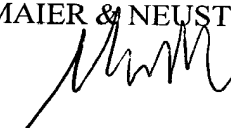
Likewise, to the extent of the discussions above, independent Claims 16 and 17 include subject matter substantially similar to what is recited in Claim 1. Thus, Claims 16 and 17 are also distinguishable from Tomita et al.

For the foregoing reasons, Claims 1, 16 and 17 are believed to be allowable. Furthermore, since Claims 2-15 ultimately depend from Claim 1, substantially the same arguments set forth above also apply to these dependent claims. Hence, Claims 2-15 are believed to be allowable as well.

In view of the amendments and discussions presented above, Applicant respectfully submits that the present application is in condition for allowance, and an early action favorable to that effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.


Gregory J. Maier
Registration No. 25,599
Robert T. Pous
Registration No. 29,099
Attorneys of Record



22850

Tel: (703) 413-3000

Fax: (703) 413-2220

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IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend Claims 1, 16 and 17 as follows:

--1. (Amended) A gantry of an X-ray computer tomography apparatus comprising:

[a base;

main posts vertically mounted on the base;

a ring frame tiltably supported by the two main posts;

a rotation ring rotatably supported by the ring frame;]

an X-ray tube[mounted on the rotation ring];

an X-ray detector[mounted on the rotation ring, opposing to the X-ray tube]; [and]

a rotation ring mounting said X-ray tube and said X-ray detector;

a ring frame rotatably supporting said rotation ring;

a plurality of main posts tiltably supporting said ring frame; and

a plurality of props [abutting on] jointing to the main posts obliquely to reinforce the
main posts.

16. (Amended) A gantry of an X-ray computer tomography apparatus comprising:

[a base;

main posts vertically mounted on the base;

a ring frame tiltably supported by the main posts;

a rotation ring rotatably supported by the ring frame;]

an X-ray tube[mounted on the rotation ring];

an X-ray detector[mounted on the rotation ring, opposing to the X-ray tube]; [and]

a rotation ring mounting said X-ray tube and said X-ray detector;

a ring frame rotatably supporting said rotation ring;

a plurality of main posts tiltably supporting said ring frame; and

a plurality of reinforce members for reinforcing the main posts.

17. (Amended) A gantry of an X-ray computer tomography apparatus comprising:

[a base;

main posts vertically mounted on the base;

a ring frame tiltably supported by the main posts;

a rotation ring rotatably supported by the ring frame;]

an X-ray tube[mounted on the rotation ring];

an X-ray detector[mounted on the rotation ring, opposing to the X-ray tube]; [and]

a rotation ring mounting said X-ray tube and said X-ray detector;

a ring frame rotatably supporting said rotation ring;

a plurality of main posts tiltably supporting said ring frame; and

a plurality of triangle blocks [for reinforcing] configured to reinforce the main posts.--